

Our Family Genealogy.

JAMES PHELPS was born in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, England—the home and cradle of the Phelps family for the past thousand years—about the year 1520, where, beneath the shadow of the venerable Abbey Church, built by Fitz Hamon, A. D. 1105, many of the Phelps family now lie interred.

WILLIAM PHELPS, his son, was born in Tewkesbury, Aug. 4, 1530. He was Bailiff (Mayor) there in 1607.

Parish Register Entry.—“Lent, 1539. I graunted a license to William Phelpes, being then extremely sicke, to eate fleshe, which license to endure no longer tyme than during his sicknes.
R. CURTIS, Curate of Tewkesburie.

WILLIAM PHELPS, his son, was born in Tewkesbury, Aug. 19, 1599; embarked at Plymouth, England, in company with his first wife and children and his two unmarried brothers, George and Richard, on the “Mary and John,” 400 tons burthen, 140 passengers in all, Capt. John Squeb, master, on March 29th 1630. And after ten weeks of a stormy voyage—having preaching and expounding of the word of God every Lord’s day by their two spiritual guides, Revs. John Maverick of Exeter, and John Warham of near Exeter. So says Roger Clap, the passenger historian aboard. They landed at Nantasket, now Hull, Mass., on May 30th, 1630. They first pitched their tent at Dorchester, now South Boston, where they lived nearly five years, and in the fall of 1635, they, in company with about sixty others, went down to the foundation of Windsor, Conn., where he lived some thirty-seven years, and where he died July 14, and was buried on the 15th, 1672, aged 73 years. His second wife, Mary Dover, died Nov. 27th, 1675. He was the father of seven children. He was a very prominent man in New England in both Church and State, says Dr. Henry R. Stiles, and, with the many other Pilgrim Fathers, helped to lay broad and deep the foundations of this now ocean-bound Republic; and his grave, although searched for, is unknown to this day.

LIEUT. TIMOTHY PHELPS, youngest son by his second wife, was born in Windsor, Conn., Sept. 1, 1639; married Mary Griswold, May 19, 1661, by whom he had twelve children. By will his father left him the paternal estate, the old family bible, the family bedstead—brought from England—and the warming-pan. His parents lived with him until their death.

TIMOTHY PHELPS, his son, was born in Windsor, Conn., Nov. 1, 1663; married Mary Crow, Nov. 4, 1686, by whom he had five children. He, together with his younger brother, Nathaniel, went down to the founding of Hebron, Conn., about the year 1690, where he lived—often being in public prominence—until his death.

NOAH PHELPS, his third child, was born in Hebron, Conn., Jan. 23d, 1694. Married Anne Dyer, Oct. 1, 1717, by whom he had six children.

NOAH PHELPS, his eldest son, was born in Hebron, Conn., Nov. 21, 1720. Married Mary Tillotson about 1742. They had ten children.

NOAH PHELPS, his seventh child, was born in Hebron, Conn., Aug. 1, 1754. Married Sarah Adams, Jan. 12, 1775. He had nine children. He with his family removed first to Granby, Conn., and in 1790 to Austerlitz, N. Y., where he died June 10, 1794. His widow married Deacon John Topping, of Fabius, N. Y., where she died at an advanced age.

OLIVER PHELPS, Esq., his third child, was born in Granby, Conn., Dec. 12, 1779, in the midst of the American Revolution. Was married to Abigail St. John, Jan. 16, 1800, at Austerlitz, N. Y., by whom he had seventeen children—nine daughters and eight sons. He removed in 1800 to Cazenovia, N. Y., and in 1804 to Fabius, N. Y., and in 1811 to Ludlowville, N. Y., in 1825 to Merrittton, Ontario, and lastly to St. Catharines, Ontario, in 1829. He was a man of whom it might fitly be said, "When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me: Because I delivered the poor that cried and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him." His works may be seen at this distant day in churches and school houses, canals, bridges, etc., all the long way from Connecticut to Canada, and there are at this present day gray-headed sires with their sons and daughters who bless the memory and benefactions of the late Deacon Oliver Phelps. After visiting for the last time his native place in Connecticut, in 1851, which he had not seen for fifty-one years before, he tarried at his son Orson's, in Buffalo, N. Y., over Sabbath, and after urgent solicitation accompanied Mrs. E. R. Phelps to the house of his son O. S. Phelps, at Cayuga, Ontario, where he died, May 4, 1851, ere he had reached his own home in St. Catharines, in Ontario, at the age of 72. While visiting the home of his early manhood, in April, 1851, and at Green River, he made this note in his memorandum-book, which we quote as affording some insight into his character: "Here, on the top of the mountain, near my father's place, on the 19th of August, 1799, the very spot where I now stand, did God open my eyes to behold the glory of the Lamb. Fifty-one years afterward, last August, here I bowed in prayer and praise to God for plucking me as a brand from the burning. And here again, on this 24th April, 1851, have I bowed the knee in prayer and praise that His love and grace are still the same." His wife died at the residence of her son Orson, 1023 Delaware avenue, Buffalo, N. Y., on May 4th, 1871, just twenty years later than the death of her husband, and was conveyed by loving hands across Niagara to St. Catharines, and laid in the family enclosure.

OLIVER SEYMOUR PHELPS, his twelfth child, was born at Ludlowville, N. Y., Jan. 12, 1816. Married first to Hester Ann Dexter, who was born at Manlius, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1816—May 6th, 1838; died at Lewiston, N. Y., Jan. 26, 1849, and now sleeps sweetly in the St. Catharines cemetery. Married again to Eliza R. Layton, July 31, 1850, who died at Portland, Oregon, Dec. 23, 1888, and now rests in lot 391, section 15, in the beautiful Riverview Cemetery. By her he has one son. He spent the first ten years of his life in his native valley village, Ludlowville, N. Y., and forty-three years in and about St. Catharines, Ontario, and in 1869 removed with his family, by way of the Isthmus of Panama, to Portland, Oregon, where he has since resided.

FRANK ORSON PHELPS, their only child, was born at St. Catharines, Ontario, Dec. 1, 1860. Married Emma W. Dingman, of Portland, Oregon, by whom he has had two children—Frank Wilson, born at Portland, Oregon, Nov. 25, 1884, and Nellie Maria, born at San Francisco, Cal.

FRANK WILSON PHELPS, his son, born at Portland, Oregon, Nov. 25, 1884, and now resides with his parents, at 943 Howard St., San Francisco, Cal.